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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT THURSDAY, August 17, 1933.

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SUBJECT: "Camping Pointers." Information from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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The camping urge is likely to get into the blood at this season and to affect any or all members of the family from grandfather down to ten-year-old junior. Anybody is likely to have that impulse to go out and live in the open spaces for awhile, to sleep out or at the very least to cook meals over an open fire. Any time now you may come on the man of the house pouring over Willy's boy scout manual or having a look at the old tent in the attic.

But even with this strong urge to get back to nature, a camping trip may be a dismal and uncomfortable failure, unless you have a few ideas in advance about adapting yourself to camp life. So perhaps you'll be interested in some helpful ideas which I've collected from experienced foresters and woodsmen. By the way, I'm sure the boy scout or camp fire girl in the family will back me up in these suggestions and perhaps add some good ones.

Well, first some information about your campfire from the United States Forest Service. The foresters say that every camper should always carry a reserve supply of matches in a well-corked bottle or water-tight cane or box, for use in wet weather. When you are ready to start a camp fire, shovel away all ground litter within a radius of three to five feet of your fireplace. Never place your fire within ten feet of standing trees, or against fallen logs or tree roots. And keep away from overhanging branches. The best foundation for a fire is an earth or rock foundation. Dig a small hole for the fire and place a rock on each side. A few iron rods about three feet long placed across the fire will hold the cooking utensils.

Those excellent woodsmen, the American Indians, taught the early settlers the advantages of a small concentrated fire for cooking--a small concentrated fire burned down to a good bed of red coals rather than a fire with a lot of smoke and flame. One of those old-fashioned iron Dutch ovens is very useful for preparing whole meals over an open fire. Some campers like to use a two-burner gasoline stove. You can make a small but efficient camp stove by filling a large coffee can half full of sand or earth and pouring in a, just one, cupful of gasoline. Punch three or four holes in the can just above the level of the level of the sand. A cupful of gasoline in sand will burn for forty or fifty minutes, enough to heat water or soup.

The inexperienced camper often has troubles during rainy weather. Where to find dry wood for kindling? But the old woodsman knows that you can usually find dry sticks for kindling among the small dead branches of green spruce timber, right against the tree trunk. In aspen timber you may be able to locate a small standing dead pole two or three inches in diameter. Split it up and make kindling from the dry center. By the way, you can recognize the aspen by its grey-white bark and rounded leaves that are quick to move with the smallest breeze--"whispering aspens"

these trees are often called. Still another help in starting a camp fire is a tablespoonful or two of sawdust dampened with kerosene. In using either gasoline or kerosene for fires take great precautions for safety. Never pour either of these highly inflammable materials on a fire. Never use them to light a fire, unless they are well combined with some material like sand or sawdust. And only use them in very small quantities.

For any camping expedition, be sure to equip yourself with a good axe and a shovel.

Now here are a few suggestions about breaking camp. The foresters advise burning all papers and cartons in the camp fire. Before you leave, put the fire out by stirring water and lots of it into the ashes. Always be sure your fire is out--dead out before you break camp.

Now, some other odds and ends of camping information. One woodsman I know says that he always carried not only waterproof match boxes of the hard rubber kind for emergencies but also a similar box of salt.

Of course, you want a jacknife in the woods. You'll find that the most useful jacknife is not too large, is made of good steel, has two strong blades, and a can opener, a punch and a file.

Even if your camping trip is to be short, you may find a little sewing kit in your ditty bag very handy. This kit will hold safety pins, needles, thread, buttons and a little pair of scissors.

About clothing, in case of chilly weather. Many old-timers at camping will tell you that a light sweater and a jacket or two lumberman's shirts are more comfortable and warmer than a heavy sweater or a heavy coat. Perhaps you've heard before that two light-weight garments are warmer than one heavy one. The clothing that keeps you warmest is the clothing that holds in the heat of your body. Dry still air is a poor conductor of heat, so the air spaces in clothing, rather than the clothing itself, are what actually keep the body warm. Generally wool is a warmer material than cotton or silk because wool fabrics contain more air spaces than these other materials. Stiff, heavy, tightly-woven material is not so warm as light, fluffy, well-napped material because it has fewer air spaces.

If your shoes or boots get wet, scrape away some hot dirt or sand from under the fire and fill them with it. They will be dry in the morning. Stuffing newspaper in shoes helps them keep their shape. To avoid sore feet, wear large shoes with small hobnails that you can't feel through the soles. Some woodsmen advise wearing a thin pair of socks, soaped on the heel on the inside next to your feet and a heavy pair of woolen socks over them, to avoid trouble with blisters.

If you want to keep food in a jar cook, anchor it in still water at the edge of a stream. Or use the method of cooling by evaporation in dry weather. Wrap a well-soaked cloth around the bottle and hand the bottle in a breeze in the shade.

Tomorrow: "Sunday Dinner Outdoors."